

1 AN ACT concerning teacher certification.

2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
3 represented in the General Assembly:

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing  
5 Section 21-5b as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21-5b)

7 Sec. 21-5b. Alternative certification. The State Board  
8 of Education, in consultation with the State Teacher  
9 Certification Board, shall establish and implement an  
10 alternative certification program under which persons who  
11 meet the requirements of and successfully complete the  
12 program established by this Section shall be issued an  
13 alternative teaching certificate for teaching in the schools.  
14 The program shall be limited to ~~not--more--than-260~~ new  
15 participants not to exceed the number of unfilled positions  
16 as reported to the State Board of Education during the prior  
17 school year ~~each-year-that-the-program--is--in--effect.~~ The  
18 State Board of Education, in cooperation with a partnership  
19 formed with a university that offers 4-year baccalaureate and  
20 masters degree programs and that is a recognized institution  
21 as defined in Section 21-21 and one or more not-for-profit  
22 organizations in the State which support excellence in  
23 teaching, shall within 30 days after submission by the  
24 partnership approve a course of study developed by the  
25 partnership that persons in the program must successfully  
26 complete in order to satisfy one criterion for issuance of an  
27 alternative certificate under this Section. The Alternative  
28 Teacher Certification program course of study must include  
29 the current content and skills contained in the university's  
30 current courses for State certification which have been  
31 approved by the State Board of Education, in consultation

1 with the State Teacher Certification Board, as the  
2 requirement for State teacher certification.

3 The alternative certification program established under  
4 this Section shall be known as the Alternative Teacher  
5 Certification program. The Alternative Teacher Certification  
6 Program shall be offered by the submitting partnership and  
7 may be offered in conjunction with one or more not-for-profit  
8 organizations in the State which support excellence in  
9 teaching. The program shall be comprised of the following 3  
10 phases: (a) the first phase is the course of study offered on  
11 an intensive basis in education theory, instructional  
12 methods, and practice teaching; (b) the second phase is the  
13 person's assignment to a full-time teaching position for one  
14 school year; and (c) the third phase is a comprehensive  
15 assessment of the person's teaching performance by school  
16 officials and the partnership participants and a  
17 recommendation by the partner institution of higher education  
18 to the State Board of Education that the person be issued a  
19 standard alternative teaching certificate. Successful  
20 completion of the Alternative Teacher Certification program  
21 shall be deemed to satisfy any other practice or student  
22 teaching and subject matter requirements established by law.

23 A provisional alternative teaching certificate, valid for  
24 one year of teaching in the common schools and not renewable,  
25 shall be issued under this Section 21-5b to persons who at  
26 the time of applying for the provisional alternative teaching  
27 certificate under this Section:

28 (1) have graduated from an accredited college or  
29 university with a bachelor's degree;

30 (2) have successfully completed the first phase of  
31 the Alternative Teacher Certification program as provided  
32 in this Section;

33 (3) have passed the tests of basic skills and  
34 subject matter knowledge required by Section 21-1a; and

1           (4) have been employed ~~for a period of at least 5~~  
2       years in an area requiring application of the  
3       individual's education; however, this requirement does  
4       not apply with respect to a provisional alternative  
5       teaching certificate for teaching in schools situated in  
6       a school district that is located in a city having a  
7       population in excess of 500,000 inhabitants.

8       A person possessing a provisional alternative certificate  
9       under this Section shall be treated as a regularly certified  
10      teacher for purposes of compensation, benefits, and other  
11      terms and conditions of employment afforded teachers in the  
12      school who are members of a bargaining unit represented by an  
13      exclusive bargaining representative, if any.

14      Until February 15, 2000, a standard alternative teaching  
15      certificate, valid for 4 years for teaching in the schools  
16      and renewable as provided in Section 21-14, shall be issued  
17      under this Section 21-5b to persons who first complete the  
18      requirements for the provisional alternative teaching  
19      certificate and who at the time of applying for a standard  
20      alternative teaching certificate under this Section have  
21      successfully completed the second and third phases of the  
22      Alternative Teacher Certification program as provided in this  
23      Section. Alternatively, beginning February 15, 2000, at the  
24      end of the 4-year validity period, persons who were issued a  
25      standard alternative teaching certificate shall be eligible,  
26      on the same basis as holders of an Initial Teaching  
27      Certificate issued under subsection (b) of Section 21-2 of  
28      this Code, to apply for a Standard Teaching Certificate,  
29      provided they meet the requirements of subsection (c) of  
30      Section 21-2 of this Code and further provided that a person  
31      who does not apply for and receive a Standard Teaching  
32      Certificate shall be able to teach only in schools situated  
33      in a school district that is located in a city having a  
34      population in excess of 500,000 inhabitants.

1           Beginning February 15, 2000, persons who have completed  
2 the requirements for a standard alternative teaching  
3 certificate under this Section shall be issued an Initial  
4 Alternative Teaching Certificate valid for 4 years of  
5 teaching and not renewable. At the end of the 4-year  
6 validity period, these persons shall be eligible, on the same  
7 basis as holders of an Initial Teaching Certificate issued  
8 under subsection (b) of Section 21-2 of this Code, to apply  
9 for a Standard Teaching Certificate, provided they meet the  
10 requirements of subsection (c) of Section 21-2.

11           This alternative certification program shall be  
12 implemented so that the first provisional alternative  
13 teaching certificates issued under this Section are effective  
14 upon the commencement of the 1997-1998 academic year and the  
15 first standard alternative teaching certificates issued under  
16 this Section are effective upon the commencement of the  
17 1998-1999 academic year.

18           The State Board of Education, in cooperation with the  
19 partnership establishing the Alternative Teacher  
20 Certification program, shall adopt rules and regulations that  
21 are consistent with this Section and that the State Board of  
22 Education deems necessary to establish and implement the  
23 program.

24           (Source: P.A. 91-609, eff. 1-1-00.)

25           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect on  
26 July 1, 2003.